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Quarles to represent Greenwood County seniors

Henry I. Quarles will represent Greenwood County seniors on the South Carolina Silver Haired Legislature after winning an election Tuesday at the Upper Savannah Area Agency on Aging.

Seniors 60 and older who are registered to vote in Greenwood County gave Quarles the most votes. Dr. Edward L. Petit was the runner-up and will be the alternate. Molly Harts and Ralph E. Williams were also on the ballot.

The Silver Haired Legislature's purpose is to identify issues, concerns and possible solutions for problems faced by South Carolina residents with a special emphasis on issues related to seniors; to make recommendations to the governor and the General Assembly; to educate the public on senior issues; to encourage seniors to participate actively in public affairs; to function on a nonpartisan basis; and to promote good government for all South Carolinians.

Silver Haired legislators are 60 or older, are registered voters in their county, and

attend caucus meetings, orientation sessions and committee sessions. They also attend an annual Silver Haired Legislature session in September to formulate solutions that will be presented to the General Assembly the following January.

Legislative priorities adopted by the Silver Haired Legislature in September 2005 and presented to the General Assembly in January 2006 included: 1) funding a transportation plan for seniors; 2) requiring criminal background checks for home and adult day-care service providers; 3) providing low-income seniors with prescription drug assistance to cover the Medicare Part D coverage gap; 4) increasing state funding for in-home and community-based services for seniors; and 5) providing more funding for necessary life-sustaining shelter, rent and services needed to care for elderly abused victims who must be removed from their places of residency.

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